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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 385 Workers at Three East Central Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today announced that three East Central Indiana companies have been awarded more than \$106,000 in training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

"As our economy continues to become more reliant on technology and the business climate becomes more competitive, companies need to invest in their employees," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of the Department of Commerce. "We are happy to assist these companies in their efforts to better equip their workforce."

- **Emhart Teknologies**, Montpelier, has been awarded a \$52,000 grant to train 160 incumbent employees as part of a \$471,500 capital investment in equipment upgrades. Primarily serving the automotive industry, Emhart Teknologies began in Chicago in 1904 and has grown to become a worldwide parts distribution company. Emhart will use the grant money to train employees in team building, computer skills and troubleshooting, as well as training in quality control programs.
- **Smurfit Stone Container Corp.**, Muncie, will receive a \$31,000 grant to train 139 existing employees following an \$803,300 investment in equipment upgrades. Founded as Georgia-Pacific in 1967, Smurfit Stone Container Corp. is the result of a merger between Jefferson Smurfit Corp. and Stone Container. The company produces folding cartons for the consumer packaging industry. Smurfit Stone Container will use the Commerce grant to train employees in lean enterprise resource planning, team building and other company-specific skills.

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- **Tru-Form Steel & Wire Inc.**, Hartford City, is the recipient of a \$23,500 grant to train 12 new workers and 74 existing associates following a company investment of \$282,000 in building and equipment upgrades. A locally owned company that began in 1934, Tru-Form Steel & Wire manufactures custom containers such as wire baskets, corrugated tubs and engine and low profile base-rack assemblies. The company will use the grant money to train employees in cross training, robotics, team building, computer skills and welding.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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